NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

To: County Clerks for the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino; and Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation – State Clearinghouse	**From:** South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Project Title: Proposed Amended Rule 1180 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Petroleum Refineries and Related Facilities; and Proposed Amended Rule 1180.1 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Other Refineries

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction, which includes the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin and the non-Palo Verde, Riverside County portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Proposed Amended Rule 1180 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Petroleum Refineries and Related Facilities (PAR 1180) applies to seven petroleum refineries which primarily produce transportation fuels including gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel, and five facilities with operations related to petroleum refineries located on contiguous or adjacent properties (related facilities). Proposed Amended Rule 1180.1 – Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring for Other Refineries (PAR 1180.1) applies to three smaller refineries which refine crude oil and/or alternative feedstocks but are not subject to PAR 1180. Amendments are proposed to both rules to provide guidance and clarifications about which requirements apply when refineries and related facilities are going through a full closure process. Specifically, PAR 1180 and PAR 1180.1 require the preparation and submittal of a Reclassified Air Monitoring Plan (RAMP) which explains the intention of the owner/operator to fully close the facility and the timeline for completion, describes all activities that will occur during the full closure process, and describes the proposed changes to the existing fenceline air monitoring system, implementation schedule, quality assurance for remaining equipment, and web-based fenceline data display and notification program. The proposed amendments also contain: 1) community monitoring fees; 2) requirements for recordkeeping, reporting, specific cause analysis, and independent audit during the full closure process; 3) a specific monitoring exemption for related facilities that share a property boundary; 4) an extension to the date when the next independent audit is required to be conducted; and 5) an increase to the public review time during the plan evaluation process. While implementation of the proposed project will not directly result in quantifiable emission reductions, workers, nearby receptors, and surrounding communities will benefit from reduced exposure and associated risk during the full closure process because the RAMP review and approval process contains improved health protective measures designed to prevent or minimize releases of fugitive emissions.

Public Agency Approving Project:	**Agency Carrying Out Project:**
South Coast Air Quality Management District	South Coast Air Quality Management District

Exempt Status:
CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption
CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt: South Coast AQMD, as Lead Agency, has reviewed the proposed project (PAR 1180 and PAR 1180.1) pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. Since implementation of the additional requirements relating to the fenceline air monitoring system when owners/operators fully close any facility will minimize or prevent potential fugitive emissions through minimal physical modifications, such as removing fenceline air monitoring equipment per an approved RAMP, it can be seen with certainty that implementing the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption. Further, the proposed project will collect data via recordkeeping, reporting, and specific cause analysis requirements during the full closure process and would not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Thus, the proposed project is also categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 – Information Collection. Finally, there is no substantial evidence indicating that any of the exceptions to the categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed project.

Date of Project Approval:
South Coast AQMD Governing Board Public Hearing: November 6, 2026

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Date Received for Filing: _____ **Signature:**  *November 6, 2026*

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